

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 6 to 8, 12 to 20, 23, and 24, as amended, appear in this application for the Examiner's review and consideration. Claims 13 to 16 are canceled without prejudice by this Amendment. Claims 3 to 5, 9 to 11, 21, and 22 were canceled by a prior Amendment. The amendments are fully supported by the specification and claims as originally filed. Therefore, there is no issue of new matter.

Claims 12 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, as allegedly being indefinite for the reasons set forth on pages 2 to 4 of the Final Office Action. In response, Applicants submit that claims 12 and 24 have each been amended to recite "wherein the precursor liquid is incorporated through the pores of the arrangement into a center of the arrangement." Claims 12 and 24, thus, clearly recite an infiltration technique, as required by the Final Office Action.

Therefore, the claims particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicant regards as the invention, and, thus, the claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 12 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Applicants thus submit that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, an early notice of which would be appreciated. Should the Examiner not agree with Applicants' position, a personal or telephonic interview is respectfully requested to discuss any remaining issues prior to the issuance of a further Office Action, and to expedite the allowance of the application.

No fee is believed to be due for the filing of this Amendment. Should any fees be due, however, please charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,
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